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A NEW GENUS IN THE SUBFAMILY BLISSINAE FROM MEXICO AND A NEW NYSIUS FROM THE NORTH WEST. (LYGAEIDAE; HEMIPTERA- HETEROPTERA)

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Praeblissus n. gen.

Head and pronotum anteriorly, not pruinose, shining. Head much wider than long. Eyes much as in *Blissus*. Ocelli set closer together than in *B. leucopterus*. Antennae longer than head and pronotum combined, second and third segments equal, third distinctly clavate. Pronotum nearly twice as wide as long; anterior margin strongly concavely arcuate; posterior margin truncate before base of scutellum; humeral angles bluntly rounded. Scutellum much wider than long. Corium dull, opaque, not vitreous as in *Blissus*. Clavus more widely expanded posteriorly than in *Blissus*; commissure distinctly longer than the scutellum; apical margin of corium straight, not obtusely angulated at apex of clavus as in *Blissus*. Membrane opaque; veins indistinct. Connexivum rather widely exposed, outer margin of each segment gently rounded, pilose. Intermediate and posterior coxae widely separated. Rostrum reaching to base of venter. Venter densely pilose. Pterygodimorphic.

Genotype: *Praeblissus albopictus* n. sp.

Praeblissus albopictus n. sp.

Head, anterior half of the pronotum, shining black, pilose; posterior half of pronotum dull, velvety black. Scutellum dull black. Corium fusco-piceous, with a prebasal, transverse, irregular white fascia which extends slightly on to the middle point of the clavus, the apex of which is narrowly white. Membrane fusco-piceous.

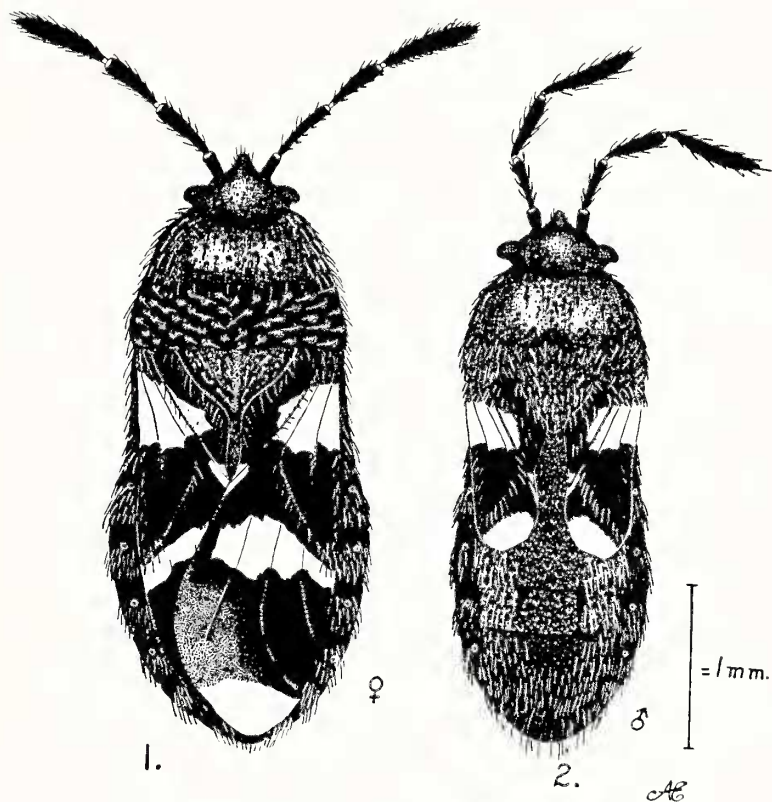
dull, opaque, with an irregular transverse basal white fascia, somewhat expanded toward the inner angle; apex narrowly, transversely, white. Connexivum black, anterior half of each segment dull, posterior half densely covered with silvery white hairs. Beneath piceous. Legs shining, fusco-piceous, trochanters, apices of femora and tibia as well as the tarsi, pale yellow testaceous. Rostrum fusco-testaceous. Antennae fusco-piceous, with incisures narrowly white.

Head one third wider than long (30×20), finely sparsely punctate, sparsely pilose. Eyes prominent. Ocelli three times as far apart as each is removed from an eye. Antennae with terminal segment one and a half times longer than the third. Pronotum sparsely long pilose, coarsely punctate on the anterior half, posterior half finely, sparsely punctate, not quite twice as wide as long (55×30). Scutellum dull, much wider than long (28×16), rather coarsely punctate on either side, longitudinally smooth through the center. Corium dull, opaque, not vitreous; apical margin straight, not obtusely angulated at apex of clavus, as in *Blissus*; clavus widely expanded posteriorly, commissure distinctly longer than the scutellum. Membrane in the macropterous form attaining apex of abdomen, its length through the middle slightly longer than the costal margin of corium. Connexivum rather widely exposed, pilose, each segment depressed in the center, outer margin of each segment gently rounded. Length 3.50 mm.

Type macropterous female; (U.S. Natl. Mus. type, number 59311) Pueblo, Mexico, intercepted by T. P. Chapman, Inspector for Division of Foreign Plant Quarantine, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, at Laredo, Texas on orchids (*Chrysis*), July 29, 1948. 6 paratypes with the same data as the type: 1 female (macropterous), 1 female (brachypterous), 4 males (brachypterous). In addition there are 12 nymphs representing three instars. (All in the collection of the U.S. Natl. Mus.)

In the brachypterous male the commissural margins behind the scutellum are widely separated and the inner margins of the membrane almost in contact, the apical margin of which is evenly rounded and extended to about the middle of the tergum.

Praeblissus is closely related to *Blissus* from which it differs most markedly in the coleopteroid like character of the surface of the pronotum, opaque hemelytra and membrane, longer claval commissure and straight posterior margin of the corium.



EXPLANATION OF PLATE XIII

1. Dorsal view of female (macropterous).

2. " " " male (brachypterous).

Illustrations by Miss Addie Egbert, Division of Insect Identification, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

Nysius paludicola n. sp.

General color griseus. Intra-orbital fascia, pronotal cicatrices, scutellum except extreme apex, ventral surfaces for the most part, genital segment of the male, a few inconspicuous spots on the veins of corium and three on the posterior margin, fuscous. Membrane hyaline, faintly spotted through the center. Antennae with the basal and terminal segments fuscous, second and third ferruginous. Femora heavily mottled with fuscous.

Head one fifth wider than long (50×40); eyes large, protruding. Bucculae a little higher in front, gradually narrowing posteriorly, ending abruptly just before base of head. Antennae three times as long as head, second segment over twice as long as basal, lengths of segments are 18:40:30:32. Pronotum subequally as long as the head and a little wider (50×60), and one third wider than long (60×40), dorsum rather flat, lateral margins very gradually converging anteriorly, nearly straight, lightly constricted midway; cicatrices meeting in the center, disk coarsely punctate behind the cicatrices. Scutellum nearly one fourth wider than long (38×30), coarsely punctate at base and on either side of the median carina. Surface of the corium very sparsely if at all pilose, costal margin just over two and one half times as long as the pronotum, contracted basal part equal to the length of scutellum, rather more flaring, posteriorly in the female. Membrane extending a little beyond the apex of the abdomen. Length 5.30 mm.

Type male, Shaw Is., San Juan Co., Wash., in salt marsh; July 28, 1926 (Worly). Paratypes; 4 males and 2 females with the same data as the type; 1 male, San Juan Is., Carter Point near Friday Harbor, Wash., July 23, 1944 (R. I. Shenfelt), swept from *Salicornia* sp?; one male Jasper, Alberta, Canada, Aug. 8 (C. T. Parson); all in the authors collection. The San Juan Is. specimens were sent to the author for identification by Professor M. T. James, State College, Pullman, Wash. and two paratypes were returned for the collection.

N. paludicola is closely related to *angustatus* Uhler. Besides its much larger size it is distinguished by the longer antennae, longer bucculae which do not quite reach to base of head, contracted basal part of the costal margin equalling the length of the unicolorous scutellum.

From the foregoing data it is apparent that this species lives in salt marshes, feeding on the common salt marsh plant, *Salicornia*.